Cellular subscribers

777. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state the number of cellular subscribers as on the 31st December, 2001 and its growth rate during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): Madam, as per the information furnished by Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) on behalf of Cellular Operators, the total number of cellular mobile telephone subscribers in India as on 31st Dec., 2001 was 54,90,322.

The data regarding growth rate of cellular mobile telephone subscribers for the last three years is as follows:—

Sl. No.	Month and Year	Number of cellular mobile telephone subscribers in India	Growth Rate in % from previous year.
1.	31st December, 1998	10,70,603	—
2.	31st December, 1999	15,99,364	49.39%
3.	31st December, 2000	31,07,449	94.29%
4.	31st December, 2001	54,90,322	76.68%

Damage to under-ground cable connecting Gajrajbigha

778. MISS FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the under-ground cable connecting Gajrajbigha under Nalanda Exchange has been damaged at many places;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the cable is so badly damaged that not only telephone connections remain out of order but also the line has noise and disturbance also; and

(c) if so, what action Government propose to take to solve the above problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Madam. The cable has been partially damaged due to laying of water supply pipe-line work at village Beguampur and Damankhanda.

(b) and (c) Yes, Madam, The cable was badly damaged, but it was got repaired and connections were restored and made workable. Other agencies involved in digging work have been instructed to inform concerned BSNL authorities before digging. Nalanda-Gajrajbigha cable route is patroled regulary.

W.L.L. FACILITY

†779. SHRI D. P. YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of districts in Uttar Pradesh which would be provided with W.L.L. facility during the current year;

(b) whether this facility would also be provided in Mainpuri district;

(c) if so, the time-frame fixed for providing this facility to each of the districts including Mainpuri;

(d) whether Government are aware that telephone consumers in the village of Kargil Martyr of Mainpuri district are facing difficulties due to theft of telephone cables, whether these villages would be provided with W.L.L phone facility on priority basis;

(e) if so, by when; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) (a) 48 districts of Uttar Pradesh are planned to be provided with W.L.L. facility during the current year.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) It is planned to provide W.L.L. in all the districts of Uttar Pradesh by August 2002 including Mainpuri.

(d) Yes, Sir. There were nine cases of cable theft in the village of Kargil

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.